



California Public Utilities Commission

505 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco, CA 94102 - www.cpuc.ca.gov

Local Government Newsletter No. 07 Oct. 2004

This newsletter is intended to inform you about recent actions undertaken and issues pending before the CPUC that may affect your community.

Statewide Interest

New! Local officials may be interested in the Commission's transmission assessment process. The Commission is considering whether reform should be made to the current process the Commission uses to review new and upgrades to electric transmission lines. A ruling was issued outlining the next steps in the proceeding and announcing that there will be a public forum to discuss the planning processes and streamlining them, and to identify transmission solutions appropriate to develop a master blueprint for resource planning. Link to the ruling:
<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/RULINGS/40554.htm>, proceeding R.04-01-026.

New! The Commission is working to implement Assembly Bill 868 which extends low-income discounts for energy to migrant housing centers. A ruling was issued requesting input from parties on the steps necessary to implement the legislation on or before January 1, 2005. The legislation extends the benefits of the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) to migrant housing centers because of the presumed income levels of the centers' occupants, and it requires that any savings be passed onto the tenants through reduced rents. Link to the ruling:
<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/RULINGS/40299.htm>, proceeding R.04-01-006.

New! Local governments that use carriers other than SBC may be interested in the SBC rate true-ups on rates it charges its competitors to use its facilities. In September 2004, the Commission set the rates SBC may charge its competitors but directed it to stop payment of any billing adjustments pending examination of their outcome. Now, a ruling has been issued in the proceeding setting a schedule for reviewing the billing adjustments. Link to the ruling:
<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/RULINGS/40586.htm>, proceeding A.01-02-024.

Southern California Interest

Los Angeles elected officials may want to comment on San Gabriel Water Company's request to increase rates in its Los Angeles district by 29% next year, 3% in 2006 and 3% in 2007. **Update!** A prehearing conference was held on November 1 to identify issues to be discussed and to consider a proceeding schedule, proceeding A.04-09-005.

New! Los Angeles officials may be interested in California Water Service's request for authorization to operate wells in East Los Angeles which have some amounts of the contaminant known as 1,4 Dioxane and if approval is not granted, Cal-Water wants to record the substantial expenses for removal of the wells for possible recovery from customers. An Evidentiary Hearing was held on October 29. Officials who want more information may contact the Public Advisor's Office at 866-849-8391 or e-mail: public.advisor.la@cpuc.ca.gov, proceeding A.04-07-035.

Long Beach and other Los Angeles South Bay communities interested in Sound Energy Solutions' proposal to construct a liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility in Long Beach. *Update!* Evidentiary hearings have been scheduled in San Francisco for January 18 and will continue each weekday through January 26, if necessary. *Reminder:* Public Participation Hearings, which are designed for the public to comment or ask questions, will be held at the Long Beach Main Library on Pacific Avenue on March 10 from 3 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 pm, and at the Wilmington Senior Citizen Center on Eubank on March 11 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Here's a link to the scoping memo: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/RULINGS/39776.htm>, proceeding I.04-04-024.

***New!* San Diego and South-Western Orange County communities and all Southern California Edison customers interested in replacement of steam generators at San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS).** Edison has asked to replace steam generators at SONGS and to recover the costs, \$106 million, from customers over the next six years. Two public scoping meetings were held in San Clemente on October 21, to discuss possible impacts of transporting and installing the new generators. A draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is being prepared and will be released to the public. Local elected officials wanting more information may contact the Public Advisor's Office at 866-849-8391 or e-mail: public.advisor.la@cpuc.ca.gov. Here's a link to information about the EIR: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/aspen/sanonofre/sanonofre.htm>, proceeding A.04-02-026.

Northern California Interest

***New!* Local elected officials may be interested in the PG&E rate change proposal and the public hearings scheduled for it.** Last May, the Commission approved revenue increases for PG&E in the amount of \$236 million in electric distribution revenues, \$52 million in gas distribution revenues, and \$38 million in generation revenues. Now the Commission is considering how to set the utility's rates to recover its costs. Five Public Participation Hearings, where consumers may express concern or ask questions, are scheduled for Chico on January 19, San Francisco on February 1, Santa Rosa on February 2, Santa Clara on February 3 and Tulare on February 7. See the community calendar in this newsletter for specifics, proceeding A.04-06-024. **Also, PG&E has asked for a revenue increase of \$12.8 million for natural gas purchases for its customers.** A scoping memo outlining the issues and proceeding schedule has been issued. Link to scoping memo: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/RULINGS/40104.htm>, proceeding A.04-07-044.

***New!* The Commission's Consumer Protections and Safety Division has made numerous recommendations to reduce the likelihood of long PG&E outages resulting from fire.** The Division completed its investigation of a fire at the PG&E Mission substation in December 2003, and concluded that the electricity failure would not have resulted in a lengthy loss of service to more than 100,000 customers had the company implemented recommendations it made after a fire and outage in 1996. Staff also recommended several measures the utility should take to reduce the loss of service to its customers, link to CPUC press release: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/NEWS_RELEASE/40879.htm.

San Luis Obispo local interest and officials whose districts are served by PG&E. The utility is requesting to replace steam generators at its Diablo Canyon Plant and to increase revenue to cover costs. *Update!* Two scoping meetings were held on October 27 to hear the public's concerns on environmental aspects to examine as part of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) a draft of which will be issued to the public. Link to information about the environmental review: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/aspen/diablocanyon/diablocanyon.htm>, proceeding A.04-01-009.

Larkfield and Sacramento elected officials and customers of California American Water Company may want to comment on the water company's request to raise rates in those areas. **Update!** Evidentiary hearings are scheduled in San Francisco for December 6 through December 8. Local officials and customers may still comment by writing or e-mailing the Public Advisor at: public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov. Refer to proceeding A.04-04-040 for Sacramento and A.04-04-041 for Larkfield.

Monterey and Felton businesses and residents. California American Water Company has asked to consolidate these two districts. The water company wants to combine these two districts to spread the costs among more customers. **Update! A scoping memo was issued outlining the issues to be examined and the schedule for the proceeding.** Link to the memo: <http://www.cpus.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/RULINGS/40273.htm>. **Reminder! Public Participation Hearings will be held in Monterey on Dec. 6 and in Felton on Dec. 7. Evidentiary hearings will begin on Jan. 4 in San Francisco,** proceeding A.04-08-012.

New! Madera local officials whose districts are served by Hillview Water Company may be interested to know that evidentiary hearings have been scheduled beginning March 21 for Hillview's request to increase revenue by 28%. Link to the scoping memo: <http://www.cpus.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/RULINGS/40432.htm>, proceeding A.04-07-042.

New! Paradise Pines local officials may be interested in attending a meeting held by Commission staff to discuss Del Oro Water Company's request to increase revenues in its Paradise Pines district by 13 percent. The meeting will be on Tuesday, November 16 at 7:00 p.m. at Paradise Pines Elementary School.

Upcoming Commission business meetings – Fri. Nov. 19, Thu. Dec. 2, Thu. Dec. 16

Most items discussed at the meetings are distributed publicly 30 days in advance of the respective meeting. Read, print and download decisions that are issued through our "Official Documents" page, selecting "Currently Open for Comment." Here's the link to the official documents page: <http://www.cpus.ca.gov/static/official+docs/index.htm>. The Agenda for a business meeting is posted on the website 10 days before a meeting and at the meeting you may comment on most items on the agenda. Contact the Public Advisor for specifics. Here's a link to the website. <http://www.cpus.ca.gov>.

November, December, January Community Calendar –

Here is a list of workshops and public meetings, which your community may want to follow or participate in. Since items could be added or removed daily, you may want to access our **daily calendar** for complete information. Also you can get on the "Information Only" list for any of our proceedings and be notified of meetings, ruling and decisions on the proceedings you select. Also if you have any questions, contact our **Public Advisor's Office**.

Tue., Nov. 16, 7 p.m.
Community meeting

Commission staff will hold a public meeting to discuss and hear concerns from consumers about Del Oro Water Company's request to increase revenues by 13% in its Paradise Pines District. **Paradise Elementary School, 13878 Compton Drive, Magalia.**

Mon. Dec. 6, 7 p.m.

The public is invited to attend and comment on California American Water

Public Participation
Hearing

Company's request to restructure and consolidate rates for its Monterey and Felton Districts. **Monterey Conference Center, Ferrante Rooms II & III, One Portola Plaza, Monterey.**

Tue., Dec. 7, 7 p.m.
Public Participation
Hearing

The public is invited to attend and comment on California-American Water Company's request to restructure and consolidate rates for its Monterey and Felton Districts. **Felton Community Hall, Main Auditorium, 6191 Highway 9, Felton.**

Wed., Jan. 19, 4:30 p.m.
Public Participation
Hearing

The public is invited to attend and comment on changes to PG&E's rates to recover increase costs previously approved in May 2004. **Chico Public Library, Conference Room, 1108 Sherman Ave (note four more hearings will be held in February).**

A word about our website: CPUC posts its public documents on its website. You can access them by searching through the [Official Documents](#) page (link on the left) or by using the search engine linked on the right. If you want information about participating in formal proceedings, the [Public Advisor's](#) page can help you (link under "quick hits"). The [home page](#) lists information in the CPUC spotlight and it provides a link to special announcements on other important issues. A [Consumer Information Center](#) (link on the left) is loaded with information about utility programs the commission has authorized. The [News Room](#) (link on left) provides press releases and other information to the media. Our [industry divisions](#) have posted numerous industry-related decisions, presentations, reports and other information on their pages (see Regulated Areas selection on the left).

If you have problems finding the documents you need, call or e-mail us and we'll help you.

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If you have questions about anything in this newsletter, please e-mail Kyle DeVine at kyl@cpuc.ca.gov. If you wish to participate in a CPUC proceeding, have questions about a proceeding, want to automatically receive CPUC-issued documents, or want to comment at a Commission meeting, our Public Advisor's Office is here to help. Contact us at:

San Francisco Office: 866-849-8390, or public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov

Los Angeles Office: 866-849-8391, or public.advisor.la@cpuc.ca.gov
